

REMARKS

Further responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 3, 2008, and supplemental to the Amendment and Reply filed January 5, 2009, concerning the above-referenced patent application, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are currently being amended for clarity. Claims 19-24 are being added as new claims. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-24 are now pending in this application.

Applicants' amendments do not affect the arguments set forth in the Amendment and Reply filed on January 5, 2009. Applicants maintain that Doi and Ishida, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-18. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-18 and that the rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 19-24 have been added to further define the invention. No new matter has been added. Support for new claims 19-24 can be found at least in Fig. 2 of the application as filed. Claims 19-24 depend from independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16, and should be allowed for at least the reasons set forth in the amendment and reply filed on January 5, 2009.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a


check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/9/09

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